

Zoology and of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Dr. Follett was slated to represent those societies at a colloquium on zoological nomenclature.

### IT'S ASTROCINEMATOGRAPHY

ASTROCINEMATOGRAPHY will be the subject for the August 12 meeting of the Astronomy Section. Leon E. Salanave, Planetarium lecturer in charge of the Section, will describe how astronomical motion pictures are used to show action on the sun. Films showing eclipses and prominences will be presented. The meeting begins at 7:30 p. m. in the Students' Lecture Room.

### DR. WEBSTER VISITS ACADEMY

DR. J. DAN WEBSTER, professor of zoology, Hanover College, Indiana, is here to spend a month working in the Department of Birds and Mammals.

Dr. Webster is a research associate in the Department. He is studying the collection of birds and mammals that he obtained in central and southern Mexico in 1952, and generously donated to the Academy.

### SEPTEMBER MEETING SET

THE ACADEMY MEETING next month will present a film, "Boat Trip Down the Yampa and Green Rivers," by Dr. Harold C. Bradley, 8 p. m. Wednesday, September 9.

### NEW MEMBERS

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS were elected by the Council at its meeting of July 16, 1953:

#### REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Mr. C. I. Clay  
Mr. David E. Roberts  
Mr. R. A. Smith  
Captain George B. Swortfiguer

Michael A. Kay  
John Kennedy  
Paul Mailand  
Marilynn McLaren  
Douglas McIntosh  
Craig E. O'Brien

#### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Curtis Brandt  
Dennis Brandt  
John Cox  
Dave Dillon  
Richard Hess

Noel S. O'Brien  
Edwin Peterson  
Gilbert Peterson  
Alan Rein  
Carol Segal  
Fred Solters

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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## August Announcement

THE REGULAR AUGUST MEETING will be held at 8 p. m. Wednesday, August 19, in the Morrison Auditorium, California Academy of Sciences. Bruce W. Halstead, M. D., of the College of Medical Evangelists, Loma Linda, California, will present a color film:

### "PENGUINS ON THE EQUATOR"

The picture was filmed on a recent expedition to the Galápagos Islands which Dr. Halstead directed. Dr. Halstead is ichthyologist for the School of Tropical and Preventive Medicine at the Loma Linda College. The film covers the full range of the unusual flora and fauna of the Galápagos Islands.

Dr. Halstead and his group conducted the first scientific investigation of poisonous and venomous fishes in the Eastern Pacific area. Sponsor of the expedition was Woodrow G. Krieger, president of Douglas Oil Company, who made his 96-foot motor yacht *Observer* available for use as a floating scientific laboratory.

The public is cordially invited. (For an account of another Galápagos expedition see page 2.)

### NEW COLLECTION OF BIRDS

KNEE-DEEP in packing cases, Dr. Robert T. Orr, curator, Department of Birds and Mammals, is sorting and assigning to proper specimen cases some 2,025 study skins of birds. The specimens, which were purchased from a veteran collector, Wilmot W. Brown, by the Academy's Board of Trustees, were all taken in the State of Guerrero, Mexico. The cases arrived here May 26.

Dr. Orr says the skins are an important addition to the Department's collections. They are of superior quality and represent most of the species of birds to be found in Guerrero and adjacent areas.

### STUDENT SECTION RECEIVES GIFT

THROUGH A GIFT from Mrs. Ira Kahn the Student Section's lecture room has been equipped with a permanently installed, beaded motion picture screen, and darkening drapes for the windows and doors. Mrs. Kahn is a Life Member and Patron of the Academy.

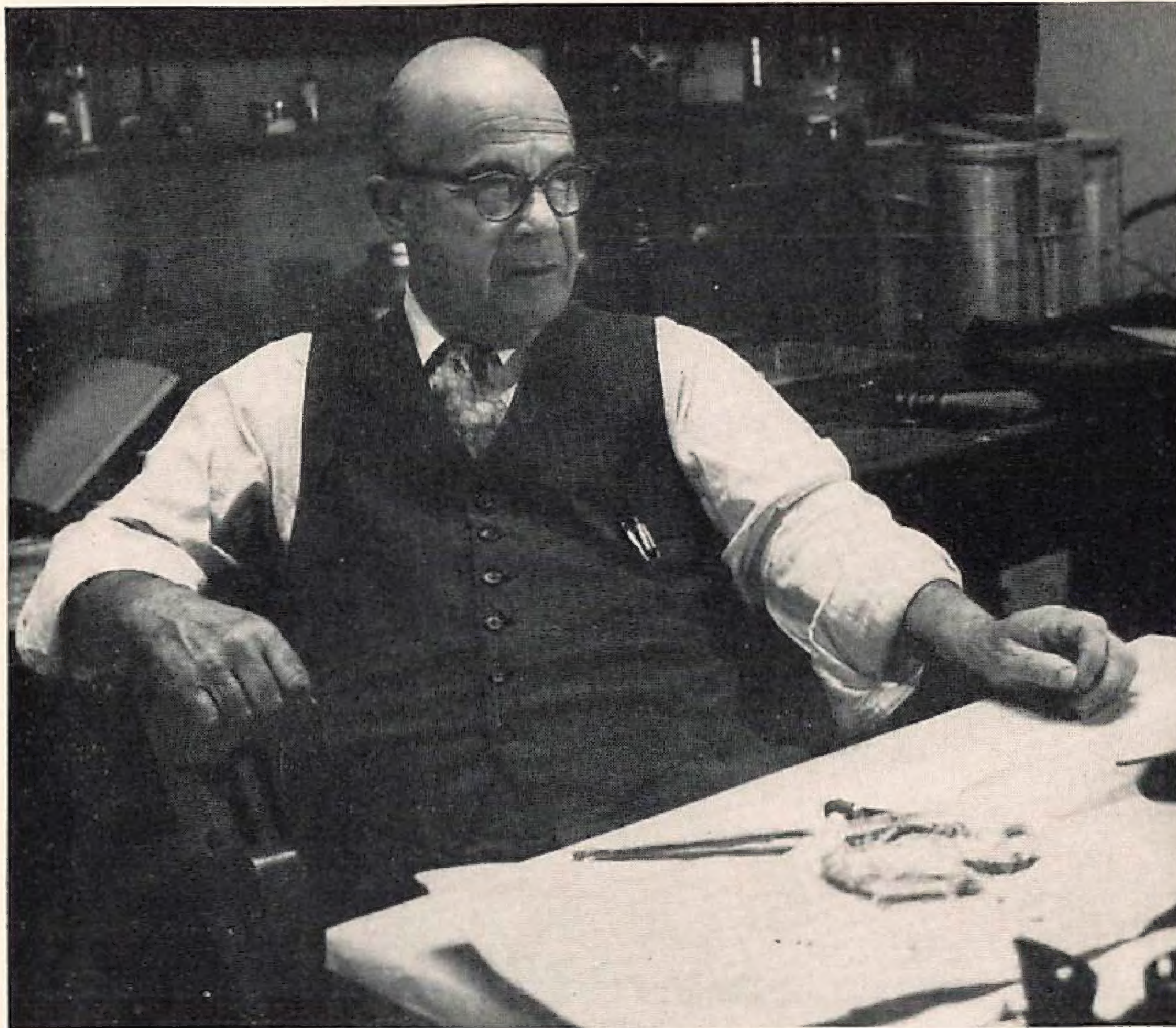
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## ACADEMY PERSONALITIES



JOSEPH R. SLEVIN  
CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF HERPETOLOGY

JOSEPH R. SLEVIN, senior staff member of the California Academy of Sciences, will complete 50 years of service to the Academy next spring.

Mr. Slevin, who was born September 13, 1881, in San Francisco, attended St. Ignatius College, San Francisco, and completed the Humanities at St. Mary's College in Kansas. He joined the Academy staff in 1904.

At that time the Academy was planning an expedition to the Galápagos Islands, and a collector who was also an experienced seaman was needed. Mr. Slevin was offered the position by the director of the Academy, Leverett Mills Loomis.

Mr. Slevin was well qualified in one of these respects and had a family background that spoke well for the other. Although only 22, he was a veteran of an

enlistment in the U. S. Navy and of some 20 voyages with the Oceanic Steamship Company. To recommend him for the other half of the job was the fact that one of his brothers was an ornithologist; one was an entomologist (their collections were acquired by the Academy, but the bird collection was destroyed in 1906); his mother was an avid philatelist; and his father a collector of books. (Tracing the family trait still farther one discovers that one of Mr. Slevin's uncles chartered a boat in 1870 and traveled up the Nile collecting birds.)

The Galápagos expedition sailed, aboard the schooner *Academy*, on June 28, 1905. Before leaving, Mr. Slevin was given an intensive course of instruction in the methods of reptile collecting. His teacher was Dr. John Vandenburg, then curator of herpetology.

The scientists had been away from home for more than a year when they learned from a passing ship, the Ecuadorian gunboat *Cotapex*, that there had been an earthquake and fire in San Francisco and "soldiers have been ordered onto the streets." Despite grave concern for their families and friends, the expedition members stuck to their scientific labors until their work was completed. They sailed back through the Golden Gate on November 29, 1906, some seven months after the Academy Museum had been destroyed.

It isn't necessary to review in detail Mr. Slevin's accomplishments as a herpetologist. They are well known to Academy members. He assumed the curatorship in the Department of Herpetology after Dr. Vandenburg's death. (During World War I he took time off to serve as a division and battery officer with Submarine Flotilla No. 5.)

Since the expedition of 1905-6 the reptiles of the Galápagos Islands have been Mr. Slevin's specialty. He has also collected and explored in Mexico, its coastal islands, the Gulf of California, Australia, Guatemala, and in the Pacific States. His writings are found in *Academy Proceedings*, in technical journals, and in popular magazines.

At the present time, Mr. Slevin is writing a history of the Galápagos Islands, having completed research on the work during his recent trip to England, where he consulted records in the Admiralty Office, the Public Records Office, and the Library of the British Museum.

The Department of Herpetology now lists some 75,000 specimens, only 13 of which were saved from the fire of 1906. These specimens include the most extensive collection of Galápagos material to be found anywhere in the world.

Incidentally, don't let that armchair fool you. Mr. Slevin is still working up specimens collected three months ago when he spent six weeks aboard the Sefton Foundation's research vessel *Orca*. And right now he is probably planning another trip.

### VISITS COPENHAGEN

THE CURATOR OF ICHTHYOLOGY, Dr. W. I. Follett, is representing the Academy at the XIV International Congress of Zoology, being held in Copenhagen, Denmark, August 5-12, 1953.

As chairman of the nomenclature committees of the Society of Systematic